

# A Walt Disney veteran is delighted by the revival of the art of animation

"Animation is here to stay," says director Woolie Reitherman, a Walt Disney veteran for more than 35 years. "There's more animation being done in film and on television than ever before."

The lanky, gray-haired esthete relaxed in his office at Disney Studios and discussed the state of animation, now and in the future.

Mr. Reitherman was enthused over the film explosion fad of recent years that has seen animation undergo a mini-revival.

"The amount of animation being done today inside and outside the industry has grown tremendously from the late Fifties and early Sixties when there seemed to be an ebb in production.

Practically every college and high school nowadays has an animation department.

"Professional and amateur film-makers are fascinated with the art and are innovating new techniques and styles all the time. There was a recent trend toward electronic and computerized animation in commercials a while back, but that seems to be dying."

The type of animation that Mr. Reitherman was weaned on was the highly stylized Disney brand with its fully animated characters. The cartoons of the Thirties and Forties symbolized the Disney excellence in animation that helped pioneer the field.

An example of the care that went into the creation of cartoons in those days can

be seen Sunday evening, July 14, when "The Wonderful World of Disney" airs an hour-long animation program entitled, "The Adventures of Chip 'N' Dale," on NBC-TV.

The show is a combination of several classic cartoon shorts featuring Donald Duck and a frolicsome chipmunk duo. But more than that, the program depicts what Mr. Reitherman feels is the most crucial element in animation—characterization.

"The most important aspect of animation, beyond all the beautiful things that can be accomplished with colors, esthetic designs, unusual perspectives of the world around us, is the mediums ability to communicate," continued Mr. Reitherman.

"At Disney, we're story-o-

riented and that means we have to spend most of our money on the development of characters, instead of cinematic styling, songs or spectacular layouts, like other animation companies do. We feel the audience must first be able to relate to the personalities in the story or the overall picture won't have the vitality and excitement that a good animated movie should.

"Because of this, there is more movement in our characters, they're more life-like and we hope more easily identifiable with. We spend a lot of time on the conception of the personalities in conflict within our shows and how a particular character is going to think and act emotionally. This means we're

only able to turn out about 7 to 10 feet of film each week, while some animation firms claim they are able to do 20, 30, or even 50 feet a week."

Live coverage of the concluding frames of the \$75,000 Brunswick Professional Bowlers Association National Championship from the Brunswick Wonderbowl in Downey, Calif., and taped coverage of the classic English derby from Epsom Downs, will be broadcast on CBS Sports Spectacular at 3:30 P.M. Sunday on the CBS Television Network.

Brent Musburger, series host, will cover the bowling competition, and Adrian Metcalfe, the English Derby.

Among the leading contenders for the Brunswick PBA title is Earl Anthony, last year's champion, who leads the PBA this year with a scoring average of 217.564. Other top entrants include all-time leading money winner Dick Weber, 1973 Bowler of the Year; Dick Ritger, one of the top performers of the past few years; veteran pro Fred (Skee) Foresmsky; and Dave Soutar, who back in 1961 when he was 21 years old, became the youngest bowler ever to win the PBA National title.

Englands' annual Derby, one of the world's most famous horse-racing events, is run on the grass before a crowd which averages more than a half-million people. The race, at a mile and one-half, is worth \$250,000 to the winner.

The two top horses competing this year are the French-bred Nonalcon and

Britain's Giacometti.

There's one thing that people and lions have in common: They don't always get along with their own kind.

But directors of the Wildlife Preserve, a wild animal drive-through park soon to open at Largo, Md., in Prince Georges county, have the solution, at least for the lions. It's called "priding," which means finding out which lions are compatible.

Under the guidance of the animal behaviorist, Jim Fowler, former star of TV's Wild

Kingdom, 20 lions are currently being prided at a compound in Clermont, Fla., prior to their being shipped to the preserve—a subsidiary of ABC-TV.

Ron Bugosh, wildlife manager of the preserve, is working with the lions. He is aiming for three prides with about nine lions in each one and has the unenviable job of driving a jeep into the compound and breaking up the lion fights. Initially, all the lions are put in the same area and those that clash immediately are separated. Bit by

bit, through trial and error, the lions end up in three groups, or prides.

"Lions have personality clashes just like people," says Mr. Fowler. "Some are aggressive, some are docile. By mixing and matching, we eventually end up with groups that are compatible."

He says the time involved in priding lions varies from group to group, but generally it takes from one to three months. Hopefully, he will have three happy prides by the scheduled July 1 opening of the preserve.